Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A network apparatus comprising:

an eXtensible Markup Language (XML) checker to determine if a received message includes XML information;

an XML parser coupled to an XML checker to parse XML transaction information in the message if the XML checker determines that the message includes XML information;

a content based switching decision logic coupled to the XML parser to receive one or more configuration patterns, the content based switching decision logic to make a switching decision for the received message based upon a comparison of the one or more configuration patterns to the XML transaction information if the XML checker determines that the message includes XML information; and

the network apparatus adapted to switch the message to an output port or to a selected processing node based upon business transaction information provided in XML in the message ~~if~~ when the message includes XML information.

2. (Original) The network apparatus of claim 1 wherein the network apparatus is adapted to switch or forward the message substantially without XML processing if the message does not include XML information.

3. (Original) The network apparatus of claim 1 wherein the network apparatus comprises a traffic manager.

4. (Original) The network apparatus of claim 1 wherein the network apparatus comprises a network processor.

5. (Canceled).

6. (Canceled).

7. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

receiving a message;

determining if the received message includes eXtensible Markup Language (XML) information~~;~~ using an XML parser coupled to an XML checker to parse XML transaction information in the message if the XML checker determines that the message includes XML information;

make a switching decision using a content based switching decision logic coupled to the XML parser to receive one or more configuration patterns, the content based switching decision logic to make a switching decision for the received message based upon a comparison of the one or more configuration patterns to the XML transaction information if the XML checker determines that the message includes XML information; and

switching the message to an output port or to a selected processing node based upon business transaction information provided in XML in the message if the message includes XML information.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7 and further comprising:

otherwise forwarding the message substantially without XML processing if the message does not include XML information.

9. (Canceled).

10. (Canceled).

11. (Original) The method of claim 10 and further comprising performing one of the following on the message if there is no match between the XML business transaction information and the configuration pattern:

directing the message to a default location; and

blocking or not forwarding the message.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the configuration pattern indicates one or more of the following:

a source or From entity of the message;

a destination or To entity of the message;

a type of transaction; and

a purchase amount.

13. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the determining if the received message includes XML information comprises performing one of the following:

detecting a certain filename or type of filename in the message;

detecting a certain type of filename extension in the message;

examining header information in the message; and

examining one or more tags in the message.